

Worcester
Oct 27

10

Rev. A. A. Phelps

Boston

Ms. 113

be rebuked with particular emphasis. Nothing has
wounded them, but their own unwillingness, from bearing their
testimony against Slavery, & "fighting on their own hook," if they
did not like the existing organizations. But instead of this,
all their efforts have been directed against those who
were doing what they could in this holy cause, & against
the cause itself. As they deserve rebuke, so let them have
it, but let the officer be treated with due respect.
But all this is foreign to the purpose of this letter. I wish to
say, that I do not like this falling off one by one. It seems
to me a wrong way of doing business. Would it not be better to
bring the subject before the Annual Meeting in January, & let facts
be stated, & the matter fully discussed, & the reasons shown
for taking a new position in relation to Garrison, if at
that time, sufficient reason for the measure should
exist. Besides, joining Fitch & Co. now, would be sanctioning
the manner of their separation - which all deem to have
been objectionable. I know your regard for the
anti-slavery cause, & have full confidence in
your judgment & discretion to navigate safely
in this dangerous sea. And allow me to believe,
that the obstinacy of G will not stimulate you to
any sudden act which the circumstances of the times
does not imperiously demand. The reputation of
my friends in this cause, are dear to me.

With high regard & esteem
Yours A. Furmanworth

to a very great degree. With Garrison's peculiar
views which you mention, I have no sympathy.
And I differ from you on one point only, & that,
to my mind, is a very unimportant one. I believe
that the Misses Grimké may tell us what they know
about slavery in a parlour, Hall, or meeting-house -
You may think otherwise. I have made my
confession of faith, that what I may say, or do,
may not be attributed to wrong influences. I have
esteemed & very highly for his early espousal of the
anti-slavery cause, & for the clear views & moral
heroism he has ever displayed in illustrating & defending
it. His attacks upon the clergy have been sometimes
severe, but I have always believed, & do not now
desire to think differently, that it was the result
of the antagonizing position which, as a body, they
even chose to take in relation to the cause in which
he was engaged. He has always ^{been} the target at which
all aimed their shots, & this seems to me to explain
why he is found so constantly in a belligerent attitude.
For be it from me to wish to see the clergy, as such,
denounced, but I am willing their sin should be
pointed out exactly as the sins of the men are,
& further, as a body, they are more intelligent than
any other, & strict justice requires that their
dereliction of duty, in the matter of slavery, should

Rev. A. A. Phelps.

Groton 27 Oct. 1837.
Amos Farnsworth.

My Dear Sir

Pardon me for obtruding myself upon your time, but your last note has exceedingly troubled me. While fondly dreaming that the new organization scheme had flash'd out, & would be seen no more, I am startled by the news that it is going forward, & not only so, but that there is a possibility of its receiving still farther accessions from our ranks. If I mistake not, this division of our forces is going to make havoc of our cause, especially in the Country. Let the separation be now made as it may, ~~using~~ the unfortunate & improper manner in which it began will be the occasion of jealousy, contention, & every thing that is evil. Garrison will have a large party, & it cannot be otherwise but there will be strife, between the two divisions. Besides, would not his power for doing mischief by the circulation of his sentiments on other matters be greater than it will be if we keep with him, & surround him with an influence which must restrain him.